

## The Times-Dispatch

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 1904.

## Public Schools and Democracy.

We print elsewhere to-day an interesting communication from Mr. Charles S. Dana, of New York, in reply to some remarks of ours in a recent issue on the subject of popular education. First of all, our correspondent expresses surprise that this paper should have "attacked the American public school system." But there is no occasion for surprise, for The Times-Dispatch has not done so. On the contrary, we have given that system our cordial support, and we think our readers will bear evidence to the fact that our record on this subject is good. We have simply called attention to what we believe to be dangers in the system of educating the children at the public expense, and warned the public against them.

Our correspondent cannot understand why we should hold, on the one hand, that the public school system is a public necessity, and, on the other, that it is un-American and undemocratic. We reply that it is a public necessity because, in a popular government where practically all the males over twenty-one years of age are permitted to vote, there must be an educated suffrage. This, apart from the fact that education is necessary to the industrial, intellectual and moral development of a nation. In our opinion, it would be better if the children of the United States could be educated in private schools, but as there are many poor children in the land whose parents are unable to pay tuition, these children would grow up in ignorance if the government did not, at its own expense, supply the means of instruction. Therefore, as education is a necessity of civilization, and especially of democratic civilization, and as many children in the United States would not receive an education except it were provided by the government, the public school system becomes a public necessity, and is, in one sense, an aid to democracy.

Nevertheless, in principle, the public school system is undemocratic, because it takes one man to educate another man's child. The system is socialistic, and the principles of socialism are as far removed from the principles of democracy as the East is from the West. Even in a democracy there must be some limitations that are more or less socialistic; some institutions that must be held by the public in common, and all the people taxed to support them. But there should be as little as possible of socialism and as much as possible of pure democracy.

The public school system, we repeat, is socialistic, and it will not do to push too far the principle upon which it rests. Admit that it is right to tax the whole people to educate the children of the poor, and it is but a step further to say that it is right for the government to supply the children with books and clothing and even with food, in order that they may be educated.

Again, admit that it is right for the State to assume the education of the children intellectually, and it is but a step further to the proposition, which has its advocates, that it is right and proper and in accordance with public policy for the State to assume the moral and religious instruction, and even the political instruction of the children.

Now, if we are to have such a system in this land; if the government should take complete control of the children and undertake to stand to them "in loco parentis," educating them, clothing and feeding them, instilling into their hearts and minds morals, religion and ideas of government, it would not be many generations before we should have a government utterly different from democracy; we should have either an absolute monarchy or complete socialism.

It is against these tendencies that The Times-Dispatch has given warning. We wish to preserve all that is good in the public school system; to conduct the schools on conservative lines, and to avoid extreme measures which the over-zealous friends of public education are forever demanding. It is not necessary to go to the extremes which we have pointed out, but there is a dangerous tendency in that direction, and it is against all such tendencies that we give warning, and shall continue to do so, notwithstanding that The Times-Dispatch is the friend and champion and earnest supporter of the public school system.

## Women at Work.

After the recent disaster in Chicago, many young women known as society women were found in the various hospitals working most faithfully in relieving the wounded and in aiding the

others in their search for missing relatives.

There are some society women, so-called, who spend most of their time in frivolous amusements, but many of them, and in this community most of them, are earnest workers in churches and in the various charitable institutions of the city. The pastor of a prominent Richmond church said some time ago that he never called upon the society women of his congregation in vain, that when he asked for their help he received it willingly and cheerfully, and could always depend upon them to discharge faithfully and efficiently the work demanded of them.

We think the records will show that in every Richmond church the society women are actively engaged in the work of the church, being prominent members of the various church organizations and frequently leading in benevolent movements. As for the charitable institutions of whatever character outside of the churches, we know the society women take an active part and contribute their fair share to the work.

This is not said, of course, in disparagement of women whose names do not figure conspicuously in the society columns of the newspapers, for they, too, are doing their work honestly and nobly.

Our purpose is to remove an erroneous impression. We cite the facts to show that a good woman may attend to her social duties without neglecting the duties of home and church, and the calls which needy humanity make upon her.

## Girls and Dolls.

One of our Northern exchanges reports a woman as having said that dolls are passing; that "the time is coming in this strange old world when the children will no longer play with dolls."

It is to be hoped that that time will never come, for when it does girls will not be girls, and they will lose a most valuable training which playing with dolls gives them. Doll playing develops the motherly instinct in the girl, makes her tender-hearted and gives her a certain sense of responsibility.

A little girl, however young, she may be, when given the care of a doll, bestows upon it much of that motherly affection and nurture that the mother bestows upon her babe. Many a girl under ten years of age has played the part of mother, and played it successfully, to her younger brothers and sisters, and has brought them up with a mother's care, as she and they have grown to maturity.

Some time ago in conversation with a young married woman in this city, she incidentally mentioned that she had reared her younger brother, the mother having died when they were young, and that, although there was very little difference in their ages, and although the boy is now much larger than she, never had he disobeyed her in any essential. It is unnecessary to say that boy has been well reared, and that he is to-day an honored member of society.

We did not ask the question, but we have no doubt that this woman played with dolls when she was a child, and that it had much to do with developing in her the motherly instinct and in fitting her for the care of her younger brother.

Love of dolls and play with dolls is an instinct with little girls, and it should be encouraged.

## New Gas-Holder.

It seems there is a good prospect that the Finance Committee of the City Council will recommend an appropriation for the construction of a gas-holder in the West End.

We know few better ways in which city money could be expended at this time. A new holder is needed, because the present storage capacity of the gas works is entirely too small, and because, with present arrangements, there is necessarily an unsatisfactory distribution of pressure in the pipes. The gas-holders in Richmond now have are barely more than sufficient to store the gas consumed from day to day. If an accident were to happen at the works and stop all manufacturing, even for a few days, the result would be a serious inconvenience to the community. People would have to supply themselves with tallow candles or oil lamps for lighting purposes. Those who rely upon gas stoves for cooking and heating purposes would be in a serious plight indeed.

Sooner or later a new gas-holder will have to be provided. It is merely a question of time. Meanwhile the city runs more or less risk by postponement or delay.

If the Finance Committee of the City Council sees its way clear to provide the funds necessary to establish a new gas-holder, the money would be well invested, people in the West End would have a more reliable and equable supply of gas, and the danger of interruption of supply on account of breakage of machine-ry would be forestalled to a large extent.

## Taking Responsibility.

The building inspector of Baltimore, Edward D. Preston, has closed temporarily, or until the required alterations can be made, the Orlo, Monumental and Holiday Street Theatres, and has ordered Ford's and the Academy of Music to provide themselves with new electric wiring. Two small theatres have been utterly condemned.

This line of action was taken with the approval of the Mayor, and was peremptory. In the end the managers of the theatres to be closed temporarily agreed to that course. Mr. Preston was immovable; he would listen to no plea for delay.

No wonder; the public holds him responsible, and after what has occurred at Chicago it stands to reason that he is unwilling to take any unnecessary risk upon his own shoulders. It is a case where there is any doubt that doubt should be solved always in favor of the tre-gers.

A building inspector, or other person, charged with seeing to the safety of theatres, halls, schools, etc., would meet with scant mercy from the public just now should there be within his "jurisdiction," so to speak, a repetition in any degree of the Iroquois horror. The least he could expect would be to be

driven from office by a storm of indignation.

In the case of the Iroquois disaster it appears from the evidence taken before the coroner's jury that nearly every ordinance that had been passed for the protection of life in theatres was disregarded. The "fire-proof" curtain proved useless, there was no fire alarm box in the building, exits were bolted, fire escapes were unfastened, etc., etc.

In fact, the so-called fire-proof building turned out to be a fire trap. A failure of the owners and proprietors to store, as required by law, gas and other explosives used in scenic arrangements not only resulted in the loss of many lives, but probably will vitiate the largest fire insurance policy held by them.

No wonder, therefore, that building inspectors are both to take upon themselves any risks other than those imperatively imposed by law.

## State Primaries.

The Democratic State Committee of Alabama met in Montgomery on Wednesday, and ordered a primary to be held on April 11th, to nominate State officers. The State Convention will be held in Montgomery, May 26th, and will elect delegates to the National Convention, and choose presidential electors.

All duly qualified white voters, who will pledge themselves to vote for the nominees of the party, are invited to take part in the Democratic primary.

There has been a lively discussion in Alabama whether this primary should be held in April or in August. It seems as if there are some voters in that State who are not in love with the primary system, and it has been charged, or at least insinuated, that they were favoring an August primary, not with the most patriotic motives.

There has also been some discussion in Alabama as to whether the State would undertake the payment of the primary election expenses. We do not know how it was decided, but we have seen no statement in the newspapers that the Legislature had agreed that the State should assume this charge.

South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana and perhaps other States, have State primaries, and State primary election laws. In the latter respect, they are ahead of Virginia. We have some special laws, but no general law covering the subject. It is to be expected, however, that the Legislature soon will supply our want in this respect.

## The New Library.

The State Library, under the direction of Mr. John P. Kennedy, has become a more useful, workable and creditable institution. It was always a treasure-house of valuable manuscripts and books, which are being carefully catalogued and classified by the modern and scientific card system.

In addition, the regular books of reference are now set in order in the reading room, so that the public has ready access to them.

All this required work, judgment and training, and the result has been a stimulus and an object lesson to the whole State of how a library can and should be used. The thanks of the public are properly due to those members of the Library Board who made the fight for efficiency in the library, the result of which we describe to-day in another column.

## "First."

(Selected for The Times-Dispatch.)  
"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness."—St. Matt. vi, 33.

Eliminate the question of what we shall eat and what we shall drink and wherewithal shall we be clothed? and how empty and barren many lives would be! They would have no aim, or interest, or occupation left!

What would some women do if they had not dress to contrive and talk about? What would a large majority of men do if they had not money to think and plan about, or the gratification of appetite, or the pursuit of pleasure?

Multitudes would be found mentally, morally and spiritually bankrupt, aimless, drifting with all the blessed possibilities of their diviner nature squandered in the service of the world and the flesh.

The question here presented is God's Kingdom and His righteousness. They are really one. Righteousness is the wedding garment which admits to the marriage supper of the King's Son. It is that which God provides, and we accept through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Righteousness must be developed, like the lily's beauty, from within. We must feel our need of this eternal purity, or we cannot get it.

We can create for ourselves a certain kind of goodness or morality which will pass current among them. But what of the secret deeds which we would blush to have the world know?

What of the low desires in which we would indulge if we dared? What of the hateful thoughts and feelings which only the restraint of outward decency keeps within bounds?

No man can honestly carry the lamp of truth down into the secret chambers of his soul and fail to perceive that his nature is unholly.

He needs to be renewed daily. In his mind; we must seek our highest development of purity in Christ.

For I must not only avoid evil, I must abhor it. I must in all honesty recoil from the very thought or suggestion of evil. The hateful thoughts and feelings which only the restraint of outward decency keeps within bounds.

No man can honestly carry the lamp of truth down into the secret chambers of his soul and fail to perceive that his nature is unholly.

By constant communion with Him, and moving in the line of His appointments, we may ripen in character and reflect more and more His righteousness. Here then is the goal set before us and the path which leads to it.

It is the one thing needed, because it alone survives an eternal treasure when the world with its power and glories shall have passed away. It is the true Kingdom of God reared up by silent, unseen

## HOW TO MAKE RICHMOND GROW AS A MANUFACTURING CENTER.

Discussed by

MAJOR JAMES H. DOOLEY,  
One of Richmond's Leading Financiers.

MR. EDWARD A. EVANS,  
Director of the Local Weather Bureau.

MR. HENRY L. CABELL,  
President of the Chamber of Commerce.

MR. CHARLES B. COOKE,  
President of Real Estate Trust Company.

## THE NECESSARY STEPS.

James H. Dooley

In response to your request for a statement of my views as to what steps could be taken to increase the manufacturing business of the city of Richmond, I will say very briefly:

The requisites for a manufacturing city are:

First, An abundance of power to drive machinery, obtained and furnished at reasonable prices.

Second, Abundant transportation facilities to bring the raw material to your doors, and to carry your products to the consumer.

Third, An intelligent population, able to compete successfully with other manufacturing cities.

Fourth, That the climate and other advantages should make the city a comfortable and desirable place of residence.

As to the first requisite, the James River is furnishing all the electric power for which there is demand. The water power can be, and will be, increased in proportion as it is wanted. In addition to this, the coal fields of West Virginia, and the oil fields of Pennsylvania, afford an almost inexhaustible supply of fuel. Few cities in the United States can surpass Richmond in the cheapness and abundance of power to drive machinery.

Second—Transportation facilities. We have the Norfolk and Western and C. & O. Railroads to bring in the coal and iron; the R. P. & P. Railroad, the James River, the York River and Southern Railroad to bring us every variety of goods manufactured, or unmanufactured.

To carry our manufactures to the consumer, we have two rivers and six trunk lines which transport them on reasonable terms to all quarters of the globe.

Third—As to population. We have a people intelligent enough, and quick to learn. We have excellent public schools, and our Mechanics' Institute to instruct them, but much more might be done in the line of technical education. The enlargement of our facilities in that direction cannot be too earnestly recommended.

Fourth—Richmond is universally considered a comfortable and desirable place for residence. Its climate is unsurpassed. It is situated midway between the long and inhospitable winters of the North and the oppressive, enervating summers of the South. Its religious and social advantages charm strangers and induce permanent residents.

In education we are moving fairly well, but can do better. With these advantages, it is a fact that all the available population of this city is engaged in manufacturing, and our growing industries are constantly making fresh demands for labor. There is plenty of room for more labor, for more people. More labor and more people will make greater production and wealth, and order to make more people, you must make known your advantages. What does a merchant do to attract his customers? He advertises.

What does a man do who wants help in his business? He advertises. What does a man do who wants a situation? He advertises.

What should a city do that wants more people? Advertise.

JAMES H. DOOLEY.

## MUST HAVE GOOD LAWS,

H. L. Cabell

The growth, power and prosperity of the city depend upon laws that are fixed and certain. First and foremost, we need men who are able by their brains and power to produce wealth, and then we need means of exchanging this wealth for other goods. That is to say, a city to be great requires nothing but the power to produce wealth and a location that favors trade. It is easy enough to state easy to make them, but it is far from easy to carry them out in actual facts. How can Richmond increase its power of producing wealth and how can it increase its trade after the wealth has been produced? If we can answer these questions successfully, we can make the answers living forces, and make the city grow by leaps and bounds.

First, I would say that nothing is more important than the active interest of taxpayers in how the taxes are levied, and how they are used. Taxation should be levied with the least possible restriction upon wealth-producing enterprises. It is true there are many obvious defects in administration of the existing systems. The first object of tax payers should be to carefully guard the levying of taxes and their disbursement. The action and vigilant interests of the public in the matter of any other thing to make Richmond what it naturally should be—a City of Homes. Just think what a reservoir of labor a city of homes would create!

Without labor even the humblest enterprise would have to stop, but with diversified labor such as thousands of families

within your soul. In other words, it is character.

Our Lord urges in a well-defined duty, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness." It means it should be first in authority.

Among the various interests which crowd into our lives, it must be the sovereign principle of thought, desire, action. Contrast how many other considerations, daily claim our submission, you will understand how this rule must work.

We constantly ask ourselves in matters pertaining to business, family, or social life: "Will this, or that scheme pay? Will it give me pleasure? Will it advance my children? Is it expedient? Can I afford it? Will I get honor by it? What will people say?"

But our Saviour commands before we take a step forward in any course of action, that we shall ask the single question, "Is it right?" And determine our conduct by the answer.

The duty we owe to God is to be our first concern, in the rearing of our children, the arrangement of our lives, the transaction of our business, our attitude in friendship and pleasures. Other questions may and will arise afterwards, but their position and importance must be tested by this supreme and inflexible rule.

It must be first, to produce a beautiful harmony in life, and fulfill our destiny. How is it with you? What place has God's Kingdom in your life, and plans? Remember the crown refused by the

foolish man, who preferred the paltry gleanings of the muck-rake. Will you do the same?

In a letter to the January number of The Bookman, Thomas Nelson Page says his estimate of the reviews of his last book "is that about one-third of them are entirely flattering; one-third damn it heartily and completely, while the remaining one-third make a serious effort at real criticism. So, many of them must have been about right."

From these reviews he is "confirmed in the opinion to which he has long been inclined," that the taste for books is within certain limits as personal "as the taste for material food." He adds that such measure of success as he has had has surprised him "quite as much as it could have surprised any one else." Although he believes that he has never shunned any piece of work, or let a piece go out of his hands until he had done his best on it, at that time, as soon as it appeared in print he found a thousand things he could have bettered, and therefore he is rather glad that the critics in general find no more fault with him than they do find.

Before another week shall be gathered among the back numbers it will probably be Major-General Wood, with a big M and a big G.

It has long been a maxim or a superstition among Virginia farmers that much frozen ground in the winter is the fore-

runner of an enormous wheat crop the next spring. By this token we will have biscuits to burn this year.

Newport News could not do without it any longer, and now she has arranged for another launching. The new Charleston is the duck to take to the water this time.

The new Legislature will meet on the 13th, but only the superstitious will be superstitious about the date and predict bad things.

Every town in the country as big as, well, as Manchester, for instance, is preparing against a duplication of the Chicago horror.

At Hammersmith, England, an anti-swearing league has been formed. It was this or a change of the name of the town.

All jesting and "projecting" aside, the fact is that Mr. Roosevelt is uneasy about that man Hanna.

Eggs are sixty cents a dozen in New York. The cold snap is encouraging to the industrious hen.

They can't very well afford to block the canal, the Democrats in Congress can't.

Naturally, the plumber is a cold weather bird when it comes down to business.

And they do say also that a hard winter precedes a great fruit year.

ball, Majestic, Marion and Piedmont hotels, and the beautiful Carnegie Library, and all this in a smaller city than Richmond.

Let your civic pride be awakened and do something for the old city.

CHAS. B. COOKE.

## OUR SUPERB CLIMATE.

Edward A. Evans

No consideration of the merits of any city as a place of permanent residence would be complete that did not take into account its climatic conditions. It is well settled that nowadays no man who of his own choice locates anew either for pleasure or business, particularly the former, does so without first informing himself on this important point.

It becomes, therefore, desirable to see what the advantages of Richmond are in this respect and how they compare with those of other cities along the Atlantic seaboard. It is, of course, hardly possible in a necessarily brief statement to convey an impression that will be in full correspondence with all the facts. There are certain conditions, however, which are recognized as essential to a desirable climate, and these only will be looked to. They are:

1. Abundant sunshine.

2. Temperatures of moderate values ranging within moderate limits, or severe storms.

The first qualification tends to mental equilibrium, or exhilaration, thereby producing beneficial physical effects. A bright, pleasant day and few things more depressing than a gloomy one. It has been truly said that "man is the creature of his environment." He is pessimistic or optimistic according to the state of his environment. For example, statistics show suicide to be comparatively rare in regions having a high percentage of sunshine, while in countries less fortunately situated in this respect, the crime is more prevalent. It is becoming significantly so during periods of dull weather.

Mild and equable temperatures and a low percentage of storm frequency both tend to physical equilibrium.

Climatically, Richmond occupies a sort of middle ground. It is well removed from the track of greatest storm frequency on the North (the Great Lakes and the New England States), and nearly equally so from the track of storms moving from the southwest and the West (the Gulf of Mexico and the Mississippi Valley); but in their onward movement these disturbances sometimes produce foul weather in this section. There remains then but one type of storm, the cold or West wind, hurricane, popularly, but erroneously, termed "equinoctial," from which we may expect extended periods of bad weather, and they are so rare in this latitude as hardly to constitute a factor in the determination of our climate.

The result of this is to give us a large number of days with sunshine seasonably and annually, the figures being: Spring, 68.7; Summer, 72.6; and Autumn, 68.7; winter, 58.7.

Percentage of storm frequency; thus two requisites are at once had.

The remaining, or temperature, essentially is one that may readily be met. Rapid and decided fluctuations in temperature in any section are dependent largely upon the proximity of the section to the path of greatest storm frequency. Thus in winter it is by no means uncommon for the thermometer to show a rising temperature throughout the Mississippi and Ohio valleys, and the Lake region, while but a little to the westward of it a cold wave is advancing, the effect of which is twenty-four hours later, to be felt in an equally rapid fall to temperatures near, and sometimes below, zero throughout most of the districts that were but the day before under the influence of abnormally high weather.

Richmond, by reason of its protected situation, escapes the decided effects of most of these violent changes, and while we must in candor confess that most of the cities of the south are also, yet our latitude gives us a more desirable degree of warmth than can be expected from the normally higher temperature prevailing to the south of us. As for more northerly points, the disparity is so great that it would be hardly fair to draw a comparison.

Seasonal (omitting summer) and annual means of temperature for a period of five years, compiled from local Weather Bureau records, will clearly show that our claim to mild and equable temperatures is not without adequate foundation.

Richmond—Spring, 65.6; Autumn, 61.5; Winter, 58.7; annual, 63.4.

Reviewing our climate and comparing it with others of which experience has been had during many years of service in various sections of the country from the northwest border to the Gulf of Mexico and the Rockies to the Atlantic, I feel that I may fairly claim for it a degree of salubrity and healthfulness unsurpassed by any other city on the Atlantic coastal plain.

E. A. EVANS.

## Trend of Thought In Dixie Lana

Atlanta Journal: Now the House Democrats want a lot of congressmen investigated about this postal matter. These investigations had better stop right where they are. It's a waste of time. The whole country has an unwholesome mania of interest as to what is going to happen next.

Charleston News and Courier: The best speech at the McClellan dinner in New York on Monday night was made by Richard Olney, of Massachusetts, in which he discussed with great frankness the ruinous foreign policy upon which the present administration has entered in defiance of all precedent, and without any regard to the interests of this country or the rights of others.

Atlanta Constitution: The Democratic party has resolved itself into one great aggressive and harmonious "big league" and there will be no demerits and stragglers from the ranks this year.

Florida Times-Union: Those who wish to know what war really means, need only observe the sort of people who are anxious to see the European war. They are the same sort of people who are anxious to see the European war.

Birmingham News: It doesn't make so much difference from what State the nominee falls. The essential thing is what States he can carry.

## From the Church Papers.

One thing that impresses us about time is that we have a great deal of it. It is one of the common errors, and one of the false pretenses of many, AS TO the time they have so little time.

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